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Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,255 09/22/2003 Masaharu Yokono 242294US2 9511

22850 7590 04/23/2007
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

BEATTY, ROBERT B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2852

Table with 3 columns: SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE, NOTIFICATION DATE, DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS 04/23/2007 ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/23/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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oblonpat@oblon.com
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TH

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,255

Applicant(s)

YOKONO, MASA HARU

Examiner

Robert Beatty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 16-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 16-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 16-17,19,23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ream '228 in view of and Ito (11-344875).

Ream teach a color printing device comprising a plurality of print cartridges 42,43,44,45 comprising photosensitive drums, developing devices 32 and image exposure devices for forming latent images on the photosensitive drums so as to be developed with toner by the developing units. The developed color toner images are transferred to an intermediate transfer belt 20. The transfer belt comprises a home position mark 75 on the belt, drive and follower rollers 40,54,41 and transfer rollers 50-53 for transferring the developed color toner images onto the intermediate transfer belt. The intermediate transfer belt is removable as a unit from the printing device and has a memory storage unit 80 as an EEPROM located thereon. Upon detecting that the transfer belt unit is installed in the printing device the controller of the printer will be put into communication with the storage memory 80 (col.1, lines 44-46). The memory will have velocity profiles for velocity correction and belt tracking profiles that will correct for differences in the position and color

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registration of the transferred images (col.3, lines 58-59, col.5, lines 11-14). These profiles will be stored in the EEPROM at the time of manufacture. Specifically, Ream teach everything claimed except and transferring the stored data in the transfer unit memory to a memory of the image forming apparatus upon attachment of the transfer belt to the image forming apparatus.

Ito teach an image forming apparatus having a detachable intermediate transfer body unit 5 with a memory 25 for storing data relating to the intermediate transfer body. When an intermediate transfer body is replaced with a new one (attached to the image forming apparatus), the data stored in the memory 25 is transferred to a CPU 26 of the image forming apparatus which inherently has a memory. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transfer the data relating to the intermediate transfer unit in Ream upon attachment to the image forming apparatus because optimum conditions can be set with respect to the specific intermediate transfer belt attached as taught in Ito.

2. Claims 18,20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ream '228 in view of and Ito (11-344875) as applied to claims 16-17,19,23-24 above and further in view of Kato (JP# 11-24498).

The combination of Ream '228 and Ito taught supra discloses most of what is claimed except obtaining the belt velocity profiles by using a plurality of pre-formed

marks on the transfer belt. Kato (JP) teach an image forming apparatus which forms color images by transferring them from a photosensitive drum to an intermediate transfer belt. A controller adjusts the speed of the image transfer belt 18 according to a sensed velocity profile. In Fig.2, there is one mark 18a, however in an alternative embodiment (see Fig.11) there are a plurality of marks 18a separated from each other in a direction of travel of the belt. These marks would constitute a "block" spaced from each other in a direction of travel of the belt and extending in a widthwise direction of the belt (perpendicular to the travel direction). In other words, there would be one mark per "block". As described in paragraphs 25-35, with regard to Fig.2, the velocity will be calculated (travel distance/ time traveled) for each rotation of the belt using one mark per rotation. However, as explained in paragraphs 42-43, it is not limited to this and one can find the velocities for each of the marks in Fig.11. Since a velocity "profile" is just the velocity vs time or distance, Kato teach alternatively, finding the velocity profile by either using one reference mark or a plurality of reference marks. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ream's stored velocity profile to include one obtained by using a plurality of marks because more accurate instantaneous velocity detection (per block) can be obtained which would help with the maintaining of the transfer belt at a constant velocity.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nishizaki teach a detachable transfer unit with memory.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/10/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

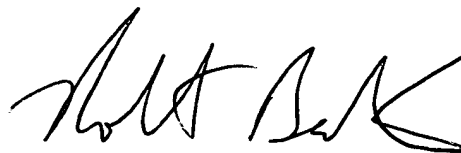
Applicant has deleted the previous claims and replaced them with claims 16-22 which required a new grounds of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Beatty whose telephone number is (571) 272-2130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray, can be reached on (571) 272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.



Robert Beatty
Primary Examiner
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April 16, 2007